

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT NEW DELHI 7277 ACTION SECSTATE
INFO CANBERRA ISLAMABAD JAKARTA TEHRAN WELLINGTON BOMBAY
CALCUTTA MADRAS 3 JUNE.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 7277

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IN, AS, ANZUS, XO

SUBJECT: VISIT OF AUSTRALIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

SUMMARY--AUSTRALIAN

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER JIM CAIRNS HELD TALKS

IN DELHI MAY 23-26 ON TOPICS OF REGIONAL INTEREST INCLUDING
THE INDIAN OCEAN AND SOUTHEAST ASIA. CAIRNS REPORTEDLY EX-
PRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE OUTCOME
OF THE INDOCHINA WAR AND CONCERN AT THE
ALLEGED SHIFT OF U.S. INTEREST FROM INDOCHINA TO THE INDIAN
OCEAN. MRS. GANDHI REPORTEDLY WITHHELD DIRECT CRITICISM OF
THE U.S. BUT CRITICIZED PAKISTAN AND CHINA. END SUMMARY.

1. THE AUSTRALIAN

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CAIRNS EXCHANGED VIEWS ON

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THE INDIAN OCEAN AMONG OTHER SUBJECTS DURING HIS TALKS WITH

MRS. GANDHI AND OTHER INDIAN LEADERS IN NEW DELHI MAY 23-26.
THE AUSTRALIAN
DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER TOLD US SUBSEQUENTLY
THAT CAIRNS'S VIEWS AS CONVEYED TO THE INDIANS WERE
EXACTLY THOSE HE EXPRESSED AT A NEWS CONFERENCE HERE MAY 26.
ALTHOUGH WE ARE POUCHING A TEXT OF THAT CONFERENCE TO THE DE-
PARTMENT CAN CANBERRA, THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS SEEM TO BE AMONG
THE MORE INTERESTING:

2. INDIAN OCEAN: CAIRNS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE END OF
THE "ILL-FOUNDED AMERICAN INTERVENTION" IN INDOCHINA
MEANS THEY (THE AMERICANS)"WILL WANT TO MOVE SOMEWHERE ELSE"
WHICH IN TURN "MAY MEAN PROBLEMS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN." CAIRNS
SAID THAT THE LITTORAL COUNTRIES OUGHT TO TELL THE AMERICANS
THAT "LOOK, WE ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY--ALL OF US FROM
AUSTRALIA TO ELSWHERE--TO LOOK AFTER OUR OWN AFFAIRS. IF
WE WANT YOUR HELP, WE WILL ASK YOU FOR IT. BUT LET US HAVE
A GO AT LOOKING AFTER OUR OWN AFFAIRS FOR A WHILE." CAIRNS
INDICATED THAT THE SHAH OF IRAN'S PROPOSALS FOR AN
INDIAN OCEAN COMMON MARKET HAD ALSO BEEN DISCUSSED,
AND THAT HE CONSIDERED THE PROPOSAL A "GREAT" CONCEPT FROM
WHICH MUCH WOULD COME IN THE FUTURE.

3. ANZUS PACT. CAIRNS ADMITTED IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION
THAT THERE IS SOME INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN AUSTRALIA'S WISH TO
IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH ASIA AND ITS CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP
IN ANZUS. BUT HE DID NOT THINK ANZUS WOULD PROVE A SERIOUS
DISADVANTAGE IN ACCOMPLISHING THE FORMER. HE ADDED THAT NEITHER
PHAM VAN DONG NOR CHOU EN-LAI HAD EVER MENTIONED AUSTRALIA'S
MEMBERSHIP IN LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM.

4. FUTURE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA: CAIRNS SAID THAT THE END OF
THE INDOCHINA WAR IS "MORE STABILIZING THAN UNSTABILIZING."
HE FORESAW NO "SUDDENLY FALLING DOMINOES." HE PREDICTED
THAT THE REUNIFICATION OF THE TWO VIETNAMS WOULD TAKE SOME TIME,
THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE MUCH VIETNAMESE
INTERFERENCE IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA, AND THAT MALAYSIA, THE
PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND WOULD BE LIKELY TO FOLLOW A "LESS
ALIGNED" POLICY WITH THE U.S. AT THE SAME TIME CAIRNS
ANTICIPATED GREATER CHINESE ASSERTIVENESS, BUT MORE
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"BY VOICE THAN IN ANY MATERIAL SENSE."

5. THE INDIAN VIEWS: THE AUSTRALIAN DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER
TOLD THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR MAY 28 THAT MRS.GANDHI MADE
CLEAR TO CAIRNS THAT THE GOI WOULD MOVE CAREFULLY
AND SLOWLY IN SEA IN ORDER TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH THE USSR
OR THE PRC. (THE INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID EXACTLY THE
SAME THING TO THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR IN NEW DELHI LAST WEEK.)

FURTHERMORE, THE GOI WAS INTERESTED IN IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA AND BELIEVED IT HAD ALREADY ACHIEVED SOME SUCCESS IN THIS REGARD. (THE INDIAN PRESIDENT HAS JUST CONCLUDED A FIVE-DAY VISIT TO INDONESIA AND PRESIDENT SUHARTO IS EXPECTED TO PAY A RETURN VISIT AT AN UNSPECIFIED DATE.) ACCORDING TO THE DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER, MRS. GANDHI DID EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT CHINESE SUBVERSION IN NORTHEAST INDIA AND ITS CONTINUING ASSISTANCE TO THE NAGA AND MIZO TRIBESMEN. WITH REGARD TO PAKISTAN, THE INDIAN PRIME MINISTER REPORTEDLY SCORED ISLAMABAD FOR TRYING TO USE "SOME BIG POWERS" TO ACHIEVE A BALANCE AGAINST INDIA. ACCORDING TO THE AUSTRALIAN, SHE DID NOT DIRECTLY COMMENT ON THE U.S. TO CAIRNS AND PUT THE ONUS ON PAKISTAN FOR TRYING TO USE THE BIG POWERS RATHER THAN THE REVERSE.

6. CAIRNS WAS ASKED BY A NEWSMAN ABOUT AUSTRALIA'S "RACIALISM" IN ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD ACCEPTING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. CAIRNS BLUNTLY REPLIED: "MOST PEOPLE SEEM TO HAVE A PREFERENCE FOR THEIR OWN KIND. I HAVE NOTICED THAT HERE. BUT THERE IS A PREFERENCE IN AUSTRALIA FOR THE KIND OF PEOPLE WHO ARE THERE ALREADY." SCHNEIDER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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